

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21 (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) Steering handle for motor vehicles, comprising:

a core;

a secondary metal about the core;

a dielectric material between said core and said secondary metal such that a capacitor is defined thereby; and

wherein means for monitoring a capacitance of the capacitor and determining a contact between at least one hand of the driver and the steering handle (free hand recognition) are provided based on the monitored capacitance.

Claim 23 (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) Steering handle for motor vehicles according to claim 22,

wherein the steering handle is provided with a capacitive free hand recognition.

Claim 25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) Steering handle for motor vehicles according to claim 22,

wherein in case of capacitive free hand recognition the damping of the monitored capacitance is identified recorded which is caused when the driver acts upon the steering handle.

Claims 27-39 (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) Steering handle for motor vehicles according to claim 22,

wherein the change of the physical parameter capacitance, in particular its damping, is recorded which is caused by the driver acting upon the steering handle.

41. (Previously Presented) Steer-by-wire steering system for a motor vehicle,
wherein it is provided with a steering handle according to claim 22.
42. (Previously Presented) Steering system for a motor vehicle on which a steering torque is actively applied (IPAS), wherein it is provided with a steering handle according to claim 22.
43. (New) Steering handle for motor vehicles according to claim 22, further comprising a second secondary metal about the core and configured such that the secondary metal and the second secondary metal define a differential capacitor.